

**REMARKS**

The Examiner's Action dated November 18, 2005, has been received, and its contents carefully noted.

The allowance of claims 12 and 13 is noted with appreciation. In response to the rejections presented in sections 4 and 5 of the Action, claim 1 has been amended to further define the contribution of the invention over the prior art.

Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to specify that the pedestal further comprises a vessel for recovering juices adapted to be placed on the steam production base and to be enveloped at least partially by the peripheral lateral wall of the cooking element placed in an inverted position on the pedestal. A vessel for recovering juices was previously recited in a number of the pending claims, including, for example, claim 2; in all of the embodiments illustrated and described in the present application, the vessel for recovering juices is intended to be enveloped at least partially by the peripheral lateral wall of at least one cooking element.

In addition, claim 1 and certain claims dependent therefrom have been amended to replace the recitation of "at least two cooking elements", previously added by amendment, with the original recitation of "at least one cooking element". This amendment has been made because the previous recitation of "at least two cooking elements" was not found to distinguish the invention over the prior art, and is therefore not needed to define the present invention.

The rejections presented in sections 4 and 5 are traversed for the reason that none of the applied references discloses a vessel for recovering juices that is adapted to be

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placed on the steam production base, and is also adapted to be enveloped at least partially by the peripheral lateral wall of the at least one cooking element placed in an inverted position on the pedestal.

The water tray 30 of Whitenack is incapable of being enveloped by a peripheral lateral wall of any cooking element. The electric stove of Kincannon does not include a vessel for recovering juices and there is no disclosure in this reference to suggest that it is intended to perform a type of cooking that would require the collection of juices.

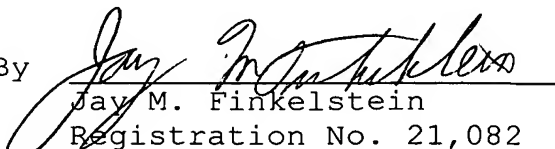
Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 now clearly defines patentably over any possible combination of the teachings of the applied references.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the prior art rejections presented in Sections 4 and 5 of the Action be reconsidered and withdrawn, that the pending claims be allowed, along with allowed claims 12 and 13, and that the application be found in allowable condition.

If the above amendment should not now place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,  
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